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DEPARTMENT FOR EUR AND EEB

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SUBJECT: FM KALFIN PREVIEWS HIS APRIL 8 WASHINGTON VISIT

Classified By: Charge d'Affaires a.i., Alex Karagiannis for reasons 1.4
(b) and (d).

1. (C) Summary. FM Kalfin previewed his Washington visit with the Charge for 90 minutes on April 6. He asked for a strong public statement by

2. (C) Afghanistan: At the NATO Summit, Bulgaria announced an additional OMLT that would be in place by September (NB this was already in the

3. (C) Energy Summit: Kalfin noted Bulgaria is in a careful balancing act on its April 24-25 Summit. The EU Commission adopted the hardest lir

4. (C) He briefed extensively on his recent visit to Turkmenistan. The Turkmen Deputy PM will attend the Summit as his President will stay hon

5. (C) The Charge stressed that's why the Summit must focus on principles and policies. We have noted that PM Stanishev will travel to Moscow

6. (C) Western Balkans, Macedonia: Kalfin expressed concern that nationalist trends seem to be strengthening in Kosovo, Serbia and Bosnia; we

7. (C) VWP: Kalfin will raise Visa Waiver, though he knows Bulgaria does not qualify: no biometric passport, refusal rate hovering at 18 perce

8. (C) UNESCO Seat: Ambassador Bokova is Bulgaria's candidate for UNESCO; she will participate in the Secretary's meeting. The Charge noted U.

9. (C) Comment: Kalfin was relaxed and confident, looking to highlight bilateral relations and boost the government as it hits the summer elec

Karagiannis